



News Release

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
1301 N. Orchard St., Boise, ID 83706 - TEL: (208) 327-7900 FAX: (208) 327-7866
Internet Homepage: <http://www.idwr.state.id.us>

Release 2002-8

NEW DATA LISTS IDAHO'S TOP TEN COUNTIES WITH COMMERCIAL WIND POWER POTENTIAL

For Immediate Release
Boise, Idaho - Jan. 30, 2002

For Media Information Contact:
Dick Larsen - (208) 327-7933

Newly refined preliminary scientific data shows Custer County has the greatest commercial wind power development potential in the state, Idaho Energy Division officials said today.

Custer County has an estimated 174,500 acres with winds classified as Class 4 to Class 7 with a potential electricity production of 3,530 Megawatts. Lemhi County ranks second with 100,800 acres of Class 4-7 winds with a potential for 2,040 megawatts while Cassia County is third with 72,200 acres and a potential; for 1,460 megawatts.

Officials say 36 of Idaho's 44 counties have a total of 900,000 acres with Class 4 to Class 7 rated winds, meaning they have potential for commercial wind development. All together, preliminary figures show Idaho has commercial wind power potential totaling 18,000 Megawatts of electricity. That's enough electricity to power about 4 million typical Idaho homes.

Officials also have ranked Idaho's commercial wind power development potential by Legislative District. District 26, which includes Owyhee and Elmore Counties, ranks first with 297,000 acres with a potential of 6,020 Megawatts. Second is District 8, which includes Adams, Boise, Gem, Idaho and Valley counties, with 112,700 acres and a potential of 2,280 Megawatts.

Among Idaho utilities, Idaho Power Company's service area includes the largest amount of land with commercial wind potential. There are 160,000 acres of Class 4-7 wind with a combined potential of 3,250 Megawatts of electricity, state energy officials said.

Class 4 rated winds are the general threshold for large-scale wind development. Class 4 winds are at least 15.7 miles per hour at a height of some 150 feet. The data was compiled by Integral GIS/Northwest SEED for the Idaho Energy Division and the U.S. Department of Energy.

-more-more-

Wind Power Potential – Page 2 of 2

Gem, Madison and Ada Counties rank as numbers 34-36 respectively on the list of counties with Class 4-7 winds. Gem County has 200 acres of windy land, Madison County has 80 acres and Ada County is dead last on the list with just some 40 acres of potential commercial wind development land.

Among utilities, Lost River Electric Cooperative comes in second with 112,700 acres with a potential for 2,280 Megawatts and Salmon River Electric Cooperative is third with 85,700 acres with a potential for 1,730 Megawatts.

A complete list of all 36 counties, the Legislative District ranking and the top 10 utilities is available on the IDWR web site at **www.idwr.state.id.us/energy/Wind**.

The top ten Idaho counties with commercial wind power development potential are:

County	Acres of Class 4-7 Winds	Potential Megawatts
Custer	174,500	3,530
Lemhi	100,800	2,040
Cassia	72,200	1,460
Owyhee	71,800	1,450
Idaho	63,400	1,280
Butte	45,800	930
Shoshone	44,600	900
Bonner	42,400	860
Boundary	34,400	700
Blaine	27,700	560